

# NATIONAL RECORDER.

"Nec araneorum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes."

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## Record.

### Sixteenth Congress.

FIRST SESSION.

#### SENATE.

April 19.—The following bill was reported to the Senate by the committee of the whole, and ordered to be engrossed and read a third time.

*Be it enacted, &c.* That the President of the United States is hereby authorized to cause to be built and equipped, any number of small vessels of war (not exceeding seven), which, in his judgment, the public service may require; the said vessels to be of a force not more than twelve guns each, according to the discretion of the President. And, for carrying this act into effect, the sum of 60,000 dollars is hereby appropriated, to be paid out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

April 20.—The bill granting privileges to the Ocean Steam Ship Company of New York was rejected—12 to 11.

The Senate then took up, in committee of the whole, Mr. King, of Alabama, in the chair, the bill "to authorize the appointment of certain commissioners to lay out the road and canals therein mentioned," which was reported from the committee on roads and canals by Mr. King, of New York, on the 4th inst., to which committee had been referred the memorials on the subject, from the legislatures of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, &c. The bill is as follows:

Whereas, by the continuation of the Cumberland road from Wheeling in the state of Virginia, through the states of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, the lands of the United States may become more valuable—

*Be it enacted, &c.* That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby authorized, to appoint three impartial and judicious persons, not being citizens of any of the states aforesaid, to be commissioners, and, in case of the death or resignation of any of them, to appoint other and like persons in their place, who shall have power carefully to examine the country, between Wheeling in the state of Virginia, and a point on the left bank of the Mississippi river, to be chosen by said commissioners, between the — and to lay out a road from Wheeling, aforesaid, to the point so to be chosen on the left bank of the river Mississippi; the said road to be on a straight line, or as nearly so as, having a due regard to the condition and situation of the ground and water courses over which the same shall be laid out, shall be deemed expedient and practicable.

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And said commissioners shall have power to employ able surveyors, chain-bearers, and other necessary assistants, in laying out said road. The said road to be eighty feet wide, and designated by marked trees, stakes, or other conspicuous monuments, at the distance of every quarter of a mile, and at every angle of deviation from a straight line. And the said commissioners shall cause to be made, and delivered to the President of the United States, an accurate plan of said road, so laid out by them as aforesaid, with a written report of their proceedings, describing therein the state lines crossed, and the marks, monuments, courses, and distances, by which the said road shall be designated; describing also the water courses, and the nature and quality of the ground over which the same shall be laid out; they shall, moreover, divide said road into sections of not more than ten, nor less than five miles long, noticing the materials that may be used in making, and giving an estimate of the expense of making each section of the road aforesaid.

Sect. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That, in order to open the communication and promote the intercourse between the states, the President of the United States be, and he is hereby authorized to appoint three impartial and judicious persons, not being citizens of either of the states of Maryland, Delaware, or New Jersey, to be commissioners, and, in case of the death, or resignation of any of them, to appoint other and like persons in their place, who shall have power to employ such able surveyors, chain-bearers, and other assistants, as they may deem necessary, and they shall proceed carefully to view and examine the route of the Chesapeake and Delaware canal, as already laid out, together with the adjacent country; and also the route of the proposed canal from the tide waters of the river Delaware to the tide waters of the Rariton river, in the state of New Jersey; and, upon such view and examination, to determine whether said canals, respectively, be laid out in such places, and in such manner, as will best promote the general interests of the U. States, and whether the same ought to be varied, or altered in any respect, either in regard to the route, plan, or dimensions of the canals; and also to estimate the expense of making and finishing said canals. And the said commissioners shall cause to be made accurate plans of said canals, and make report, in writing, of their proceedings and opinions, with an estimate of the expense of making and completing said canals, to the President of the United States, to be by him communicated to Congress.

Sect. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the commissioners, surveyors, chain-bearers, and

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other necessary assistants, to be appointed in pursuance of this act, shall severally take an oath, or affirmation, faithfully and diligently to perform their respective duties, and shall receive, in full compensation for their services and expenses, each commissioner — dollars, each surveyor — dollars, and each other necessary assistant — dollars, for each day in which they shall be necessarily employed in the service aforesaid: *Provided always, and it is hereby further enacted and declared, That nothing in this act contained, or that shall be done in pursuance thereof, shall be deemed or construed to imply any obligation on the part of the United States, to make, or to defray the expense of making, the roads and canals hereby authorized to be examined or laid out, nor of any of them, nor of any part of any of them.*

Sect. 4. *And be it further enacted, That —* thousand dollars be, and are hereby appropriated to defray the expense of laying out the roads and canals aforesaid.

*April 21.*—The bill for the benefit of the Ocean Steam Ship Company, was reconsidered and passed to a third reading—19 to 12.

*April 24.*—Mr. Morrill's resolutions on the subject of duelling, were taken up and agreed to be laid on the table.—The bill to authorize commissioners to lay out a road from Wheeling to the Mississippi, and for surveying the route of certain canals, was recommitted.

#### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

*April 19.*—The bill from the Senate for changing the mode of disposing of the public lands, after undergoing much discussion, was passed to a third reading.

*April 20.*—A motion to proceed to the consideration of the proposition from the Senate to amend the constitution so as to provide a uniform mode of electing representatives and electors, was negatived.—The bill abolishing credits on public lands was passed, 133 to 23.

*April 22.*—The bill for the revision of the tariff having been gone through, after numerous unsuccessful attempts to amend the different sections, Mr. Tyler, of Virginia, moved to strike out the first section; but before he went into an argument in defence of his general principle, he moved that the committee rise, which prevailed.

*April 24.*—Mr. Smith, of Maryland, presented a petition of sundry inhabitants of the city of Baltimore, praying that measures may be adopted to prevent citizens of the United States from engaging in the business of privateering under the flags of the governments in South America, and that certain ports in the United States be designated in which only cruisers of those governments may be permitted to enter, and that those lying on the waters of the Chesapeake bay may be among those which may be prohibited; which petition was referred to the committee on foreign affairs.

The House then again resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Taylor in the chair, on the bill to regulate the duties on imports. A motion to strike out the first section of the bill (to reject it) being under consideration, Mr. Tyler delivered a speech of about an hour's length in support of this motion. Mr. Storrs delivered a speech of about the same length in

reply. After whom, Mr. Gross, of New York, spoke at some length on the same side of the question. The question was then taken on striking out the first section of the bill, and decided in the negative, 73 votes to 48. The committee of the whole then took up the other bill referred to it, by the title of "A bill regulating the payment of duties on merchandise imported, and for other purposes."

[This bill provides, that from and after a certain date, the duties laid on all goods, wares and merchandise, imported into the United States, except dyeing drugs, and materials for composing dyes, gum arabic, gum senegal, and all other articles used solely for medicinal purposes, cassia, cinnamon, cloves, chocolate, cocoa, coffee, indigo, mace, molasses, nutmegs, pepper, pimento, salt, ochre, sugar, tea, shall be paid before a permit shall be granted for landing the same, unless entered for exportation or deposited in public storehouses. On the excepted articles, duties not exceeding 100 dollars in amount to be paid in cash; and, if exceeding that sum, shall be allowed a credit, on one half for three months, and on the other half for six months; except tea, the duties on which are to be payable, in equal payments, at three, six, and nine months.]

Mr. Baldwin explained at some length the general views which had induced the committee on manufactures to report this bill, and spoke in detail of the various provisions contained in it. Mr. Silsbee assigned at considerable length, the reasons why he was opposed to the passage of the bill. Mr. Lowndes also assigned the reasons why he also was opposed to the bill, and particularly to the provisions which contemplate restrictions on the East India trade. Mr. Clay spoke in reply to Mr. Silsbee and Mr. Lowndes, and urged the adoption of the provisions of this bill. Mr. Lowndes again spoke; and Mr. Clay rejoined. Mr. Baldwin was speaking earnestly in support of the bill; when an alarm of fire in the city induced the committee to rise (at 4 o'clock) and the House adjourned.

#### *Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb.*

At a meeting of the members of this institution, convened agreeably to public notice in the Hall of the American Philosophical Society, on Saturday the 22d instant, the Right Rev. William White in the chair—

It was *Resolved*, That the Preamble and Constitution, as amended and adopted, be published in the newspapers of the city of Philadelphia.

*Resolved*, That the book in which the constitution has been transcribed, and which contains the signatures of those who have become members of this institution, be deposited in the office of John Bacon, esq. city treasurer, S. W. corner of Fifth and Chesnut streets, in order that those persons who may be disposed to become members, may have an opportunity to enrol their names as such.

*Resolved*, That a meeting of the members of this institution be held at this place on Wednesday evening next, the 26th instant, for the pur-

pose of electing officers, agreeably to the intention of the constitution. Adjourned.

Signed, W. J. DUANE, Sec'y.

#### PREAMBLE.

Among the various efforts of philanthropy and learning, to enlarge the circle of human happiness and knowledge, none, perhaps, should rank higher than those which have been directed to the discovery and application of means for the instruction of the deaf and dumb.

To behold a human being destitute of the faculties which essentially distinguish our species from the brute creation, and denied those enjoyments without which temporal existence must be to the last degree oppressive, is to witness an object, eminently calculated to awaken compassion, and invigorate exertions for the alleviation of the sufferer.

In Europe, institutions have been for a long time in successful operation, for the relief of this description of persons; and, recently, two schools have been established in the United States for the same benevolent purpose; but Pennsylvania has not hitherto numbered, in the comprehensive list of her charitable foundations, an asylum where these children of affliction may be taught to know that they possess intellectual powers, and are capable of deriving enjoyment from their exercise.

The only reason which can be supposed or assigned for delay, until this period, in the formation of a school for the instruction of the deaf and dumb, in this extensive commonwealth is, that few, if any, of its citizens, have been aware of the great number of individuals within its limits, whose condition so emphatically demanded their notice and sympathy.

Desirous, therefore, of extending the benefits of instruction, and with it the incomparable solace of rational social intercourse, to that portion of our fellow beings who are deprived of the faculties of speech and hearing—we, the subscribers, associate for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a school for the education of the deaf and dumb, soliciting towards its support the bounty of individuals, and the patronage of the legislature.

#### CONSTITUTION.

Art. 1. The title shall be "The Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb."

Art. 2. The school shall be located in Philadelphia.

Art. 3. The institution shall be supported by the annual subscriptions of its members; by life subscriptions; by such aid as the legislature of the state may be pleased to afford; by donations and legacies, and by the payment for the education of children, by the parents, or others, who may have the ability so to do.

Art. 4. The officers of the institution shall be a president, four vice-presidents, (and the number of vice-presidents may be increased from time to time, by a by-law or by-laws, as circumstances may require in extending the benefits of the institution throughout the state) a treasurer, and a recording secretary; they shall be ex officio members of the board of directors, hereinafter provided for.

Art. 5. The president, or in his absence, one of the vice-presidents, or in the absence of

both, a chairman to be appointed by the members present, shall preside at all meetings of the association, have a casting vote, when the members are equally divided upon any question, (but no other) and shall perform such other duties as may be required of him by the by-laws.

Art. 6. The duties of the other officers shall be such as are implied in their titles, and shall be prescribed in the by-laws.

Art. 7. There shall be a board of twenty-four directors, composed of members of the institution, who shall annually, at the meeting next succeeding their election, appoint one of their number to act as corresponding secretary of the institution; their other duties shall be such as may be defined by the by-laws.

There shall also be a committee of twelve ladies, selected annually by the board of directors at their first meeting, in the month of May, to aid in the management of the establishment, under such provisions as may be from time to time prescribed by the by-laws.

Art. 8. Any person may be a member, who shall sign this constitution, and pay a sum not exceeding three dollars per annum, or such gross sum in lieu thereof, to constitute a member for life, as may be prescribed in the by-laws, provided such sum shall not exceed twenty dollars.

Art. 9. The members of the institution shall meet annually, on the first Wednesday in May, in the city of Philadelphia, (at such hours as the directors may prescribe) for the election of officers and directors, as well as for the transaction of such business as may be then laid before them; and receive the annual report of the directors. Adjourned and special meetings may be held, as shall be provided for by the by-laws.

Art. 10. The association shall have the power to make by-laws as well to carry into effect the provisions herein contained, as to make other rules and regulations consistent herewith.

Art. 11. The right of membership may be relinquished, and the resignation addressed in writing to the board of directors, shall be accepted by them, provided, the member shall have discharged all demands due to the institution.

Art. 12. The funds of the institution shall be at the disposal and under the management of the board of directors; subject, however, so far as relates to that part derived from the life-subscriptions, to such restrictions as may be imposed by the by-laws.

Art. 13. Amendments or additions may be made to these articles, having been first proposed in writing at one meeting, and adopted at a succeeding meeting, by two-thirds of the members present, there being at least one-third of the whole number of members at the said meeting, but not otherwise.

Immediately on the adoption of this constitution, order shall be taken for the election of officers and directors, who shall serve until the first Wednesday in May, 1821, and until such other officers shall be chosen.

#### MINT ESTABLISHMENT.

*Mint of the U. S. Jan. 1, 1820.*

Sir—I have the honour of laying before you

a report of the operations of the mint during the last year.

From the statement of the treasurer, accompanying this report, it will appear that, within the above period, the coinage has been:

In gold,	51,723 pieces, amounting to	\$258,615
In silver,	2,352,000 pieces, amounting to	1,140,000
In copper,	2,671,000 pieces, amounting to	26,710

Making, in the whole, 5,074,723 pieces, amounting to 1,425,325

The amount of coinage would have been considerably greater had a sufficient supply of bullion been regularly furnished; but, for four or five months, no deposits of any consequence were received. During this interval, however, the workmen were advantageously employed in completing and improving the buildings and machinery belonging to the establishment; and the mint is now, it is believed, fully competent to coin all the gold and silver which it is probable will hereafter be received, as well as to carry on the copper coinage to any desirable amount; for, even with a single press, at the rate it is now working, eighty tons (seven and a half millions of cents) may be coined in the course of a year.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect, your most obedient servant,

R. PATTERSON.

JAMES MONROE, *President of the United States.*

The gold coinage was entirely in half eagles; the silver, 2,208,000 of half dollars, and 144,000 quarters; the copper of cents.

The total amount of the value of coins made at the mint, since its establishment, up to the 31st December, 1819, is \$16,992,781 06

The entire cost of the establishment, including that of buildings and machinery, salaries and wages, and the wastage on gold and silver, &c. 594,343 16

Deduct the amount gained, same time, on the copper coinage 63,037 01

Net cost of the establishment 531,306 15

The preceding is from a report laid before the House of Representatives, on the 10th April, 1820.

**Exemption from Military Service.**—An act was passed at the close of the late session of the New York legislature, exempting all persons having *religious scruples* against bearing arms, from the performance of military duty in time of peace, without requiring from such persons the payment of any fine or commutation whatever in lieu of such service.

A specimen of beautiful marble, of the *Verde Antique*, has been received from N. Silliman, esq., register of the land office at Zanesville, Ohio. "It has been found in large quantities near the falls of the river Hockhocking. I have seen other specimens, from the same place, of a grey cloud, and of about the same texture.

"N. SILLIMAN."

The *falls* of the Hockhocking are within the land district of Chillicothe, in township 14, range 17, from the west boundary of Pennsylvania. This township was surveyed in 1801. The falls

are about 40 miles, in a right line, above the confluence of the Hockhocking with the river Ohio. This marble appears to be of the same character as that of Milford, in Connecticut, of which several chimney pieces are placed in the Capitol.

*General Land Office, April 18, 1820.*

[*Nat. Int.*

By a decree of the king of the Netherlands, and subsequent order from the burgomasters of Amsterdam, the celebrated Bank of Amsterdam, whose functions, till within a recent period, have borne so large a share in the money transactions of foreign countries with Holland, has ceased to exist. The whole of its accounts will be finally closed on or before the 28th of July next.

In the April number of the *Western Review* Dr. Caldwell has published a vindication of the Life of General Greene, from the charge of plagiarism in the *North American Review*. He says as his narrative is of the same events as those related in Lee's *Memoirs*, there must be a similarity between them; but he appeals to every person conversant with the style of each to say, whether his history can be said to be copied. He also makes some observations on a rumour that the publication of his work was an improper interference with the intention of judge Johnson of South Carolina, to write the life of general Greene. This gentleman, it is said, is now engaged in this work.

The *Port Folio*, which has been established in this city nineteen years, is now changed from a monthly to a quarterly publication. The number for January, February and March, has lately appeared, and contains an address, describing the plan on which it is to be in future conducted. Mr. John E. Hall continues to be the editor.

#### MARRIED.

On the 19th inst. by Wm. Moulder, esq., Mr. Jesse M. Rositer, to Miss Minerva Rogers, of Philadelphia county.

On the 20th inst. by the Rev. Mr. Dubois, Dr. Wm. Harris, of Chester county, to Miss Matilda Patterson, daughter of R. Patterson, esq. of Philadelphia.

On the 20th inst. by the Rev. Philip F. Mayer, Mr. Lewis Paleske, jr. of this city, to Miss Susan Burling, daughter of Mr. Samuel Burling, of New York.

At Germantown, on the 20th inst. by the Rev. James Rooker, Mr. Robert Barnes, of Abington, to Miss Hannah Bruner, of Germantown.

On the 20th inst. by Robert Wharton, esq. Mr. Henry Ser-rill, to Miss Massey Steel, daughter of Mr. Thomas Steel, all of Darby township, Philadelphia county.

On the 25th inst. by the Rev. Henry Holcombe, Mr. John Sheain, to Miss Eliza Ann Walters, all of this city.

At Waterford (Conn.), Mr. Abram Clark, aged 17 years and 6 months, to Miss Lydia Ann Watrous, aged 14 years and 3 months.

At Hebron (Conn.), Rev. Lorenzo Dow, to Miss Lucy Dolbear, of Montville.

#### DIED.

At Naples, on the 24th January, Cardinal Caracciolo, bishop of Palestine.

At Bath, the Rev. T. Haweis, L. L. D. and M. D., in the eighty-seventh year of his age. He was the father of the Missionary Society; and the mission to the islands in the Pacific Ocean originated with him.

At Trenton, on the 15th instant, Caleb Richardson, in the 28th year of his age, late bookseller in the city of Philadelphia.

In Halifax, sir John Wentworth, aged 84, formerly governor of New Hampshire.

At Norfolk, Charles K. Mallory, esq. collector of that port—a gentleman universally esteemed and regretted.

At Worcester (Mass.) on the 14th instant, the honourable Levi Lincoln, formerly attorney general of the U. States, and afterwards lieutenant governor of that commonwealth.

At Sackett's Harbour, captain Edward Cole, of the United States navy, aged 53 years.

On the 27th ult. at Port Elizabeth, Mrs. Ellen Brick, consort of Joshua Brick, esq. in the 32d year of her age.

## Miscellany.

### EXTRACT.

It was a frequent and favourite remark of the late Dr. Cullen—that there are more false facts current in the world than false theories; and a similar observation occurs, more than once, in the *Novum Organon*. "Men of learning (says Bacon in one passage) are too often led, from indolence or credulity, to avail themselves of mere rumours or whispers of experience, as confirmations, and sometimes as the very groundwork of their philosophy; ascribing to them the same authority as if they rested on legitimate testimony. Like to a government which should regulate its measures, not by the official information received from its own accredited ambassadors, but by the gossipings of newsmongers in the streets. Such, in truth, is the manner in which the interests of philosophy, as far as *experience* is concerned, have been hitherto administered. Nothing is to be found which has been duly investigated; nothing which has been verified by a careful examination of proofs; nothing which has been reduced to the standard of number, weight or measure."\*

This very important aphorism deserves the serious attention of those who, while they are perpetually declaiming against the uncertainty and fallacy of systems, are themselves employed in amassing a chaos of insulated particulars, which they admit upon the slenderest evidence. Such men, sensible of their own incapacity for scientific investigation, have often a malicious pleasure in destroying the fabrics of their predecessors; or, if they should be actuated by less unworthy motives, they may yet feel a certain gratification to their vanity, in astonishing the world with anomalous and unlooked for phenomena;—a weakness which results not less naturally from ignorance and folly, than a bias to premature generalization from the consciousness of genius. Both of these weaknesses are undoubtedly adverse to the progress of science; but, in the actual state

of human knowledge, the former is perhaps the more dangerous of the two.

From the Club Room, No. 2.

### EXTRACT.

It is a very common error,—opinion perhaps I should have said, but earnestly do I hope that I may call it an error—that the hours of youth are the best and happiest of life. It is called the spring-time of existence; and it may be so, for what is spring? A season in which we have neither the flowers and foliage of summer, nor the fruits and rich rainbow hues of autumn, nor winter's social fire-side, and clear bright evening, and deep blue sky, where the moon rests in glory, and seeming to forget that her beams are borrowed, showers them upon earth with as much pride and profusion as if they were her own, and the stars are twinkling and sparkling as if they struggled to leave the heavens and come down among us;—a season in which we have none of these things, and nothing which can compensate for them.

I believe, and unless I deceive myself, my opinion is grounded upon facts which I have learnt partly from experience, but principally from observation, that, if there be a period of life more uncomfortable than any other, it is youth. Childhood is better, for then existence is new, the gloss of life is not worn off. Manhood is better, for then one is bound to life by strong and enduring ties; then one may have gathered around him many who make him happy, as they impose upon him the necessity of making them happy. Old age is better—far better, for then time has stretched his halcyon wing over the stormy ocean of life, and has stilled the tempests of passion; then the little cares and interests which fill a large space in the heart of even the good man, and bind it down to earth, loosen their hold, and the soul lifts itself in high and holy aspirations to heaven, as if it would gather strength for its flight to that home, where it will rest forever.

### PENNSYLVANIA ABOLITION SOCIETY.

At a meeting of the Pennsylvania Society for promoting the Abolition of Slavery and improving the condition of the African race, held on the 13th day of April, 1820, the following preamble and resolution were unanimously adopted.

This society views with deep concern, the result of the late proceedings of Con-

\* Nov. Org. lib. i. aph. xcvi.

gress in respect to the formation of a new state in the territory of Missouri.

A solemn and deliberate sanction seems to be thereby given to the continuance of domestic slavery, within the limits of a nation, whose original separation from Great Britain, was, professedly, founded on the abhorrence of slavery in every form, and whose toleration of it in their general constitution, was only excused by an imperious state necessity.

At a period when such a plea cannot be urged; when the Christian powers of Europe are actively co-operating in preventing the continuance of the slave trade from Africa; when almost every other public act, and profession of public opinion, emanating from our own government, convey the impression of abhorrence of its existence, to open a new mart for this unnatural traffic, and with facilities of transfer not restrained, but indirectly invited and protected, to stamp a constitutional perpetuity on its principles, appears to us equally inconsistent and unjust.

Yet the power to form a state, without a restriction in these respects by Congress, has been declared, and however it may be regretted, must be submitted to, until some constitutional remedy shall be obtained.

It remains to be seen, whether the virtue of the inhabitants of the territory, when collected to form their constitution as a state, will not supply what Congress has decided not to require as a preliminary condition to the formation of their constitution; whether their own sense of justice, their own attachment to the sound principles of political and civil liberty, their own perception of the real interests of their country, will not lead them to present to Congress a constitution, from whose face this odious feature shall be expressly and for ever excluded, and thus establish by voluntary and honourable compact, what they might from other motives reject as a condition imposed on them.

If this hope should fail, another remains. It will rest with the legislature of the United States, whether they will receive into their bosom a new member, who has neglected or disclaimed the opportunity and the honour of approaching the union with a constitution truly republican, unstained by the infusion of a principle inconsistent with the purity and freedom that can alone consolidate, ennoble and perpetuate our country; and to this we earnestly and respectfully invite the future attention of our representatives.

A confident hope is yet entertained, that when the territory of Missouri shall present her constitution or form of government, for the approbation or ratification of Congress, that body will carefully scrutinize it; and if it shall be found to contain provisions which tolerate involuntary slavery, and the invasion of those rights of our fellow men, which can never be justly invaded, *the admission of such a community, under such a government into our union, will be firmly and unhesitatingly refused.*

We deem this a proper occasion to declare, that with a deep conviction that slavery is inconsistent with moral principle, national interest, and above all, with the Christian dispensation; we never have sought to raise our opposition to it above the constitutional barriers intended to surround and protect our country. To the constitutional powers of the legislature of the United States, to avert and to remove evils, we have always looked with confidence and satisfaction. Holding, as we do, the union of the states, as the great basis of their prosperity and happiness, we shall be among the last of the members of this free nation to abandon it; and we shall wait until the heavy pressure of the evils which might have been prevented or remedied, by the due and proper exercise of those powers, shall compel us to submit to its termination. That period will, we cordially hope, never arrive.

But while we thus declare our feelings and our convictions on this most important subject, we do not intend to admit that these declarations have been made necessary by any measures which have been adopted, or by any opinions which have been expressed by the society, or by those who have advocated the exclusion of slavery from Missouri. If the introduction there of the system of human bondage and oppression, has been represented by its opponents as fatal in its consequences to the true interests of a free nation, and tending to involve all in one common calamity; if the rights and privileges of the citizens of those states in which slavery is not tolerated, have been declared to be jeopardized, if not sacrificed by this legitimization of slavery in the proposed new state; and if apprehensions have been expressed and are felt, that among the worst effects which may result from it may be a separation of the northern states from the slave holding states: it will be for those who have permitted these things, or have suffered their causes to

exist, to answer for their deeds, and for their consequences. *To the opponents of slavery such reproaches will never apply.*

The firm, persevering, and virtuous support which the cause of justice and constitutional freedom obtained from the senators, and, with but two exceptions, from the representatives of the state of Pennsylvania; from the senators, and from all the representatives of the state of New York, with but two exceptions; and from very many of the senators and representatives of other states, entitle those advocates and supporters of this cause to our gratitude, and we have the highest satisfaction in declaring the same. If these efforts have not been successful, those who made them have the sanction of a good conscience, and the approbation of all good men.

*Resolved*, That a copy of this expression of the sentiments of the society, be transmitted to those members of the national legislature, who voted in favour of preventing the further introduction of slavery into Missouri, the same to be signed by the president of the society.

WM. RAWLE, President.

B. WILLIAMS, Secretary.

[*Nat. Gazette.*

St. Louis, March 29.

*Gratifying news from Washington.—*

*King and Clinton defeated.—The Senate triumphant.—Final passage of the Missouri State Bill without restriction.*

The final vote in the House of Representatives was a close one, 90—87. Of these 87, though lawfully counted as votes, only a few are entitled to any respect; the greater part being given under the whip and lash of town meeting and legislative resolutions, and others from the criminal impulses of mad and wicked ambition. But the agony is over, and Missouri is born into the union; not a seven months baby, but a man child; his birth no secret in the family, but a proud and glorious event, proclaimed to the nation with the firing of cannon, the ringing of bells and illumination of towns and cities.

Ohio is the only state whose senators and representatives voted unanimously for putting the restriction on Missouri. Mr. Taylor, of Indiana, voted against separating Maine and Missouri on the last and decisive trial of that question.

#### PENITENTIARY SYSTEM.

I take the liberty of making some obser-

vations on an article in the National Gazette of the 19th inst., as I think it gives an erroneous impression to persons, not intimately acquainted with the true object of the penitentiary system.

From several sentences it would appear, that the writer of that article supposes the "system has failed." *My opinion is, on the contrary, that it has answered, and will completely answer every end its most sanguine friends could expect.* Advert to the admirable change that was made in the prison in this city, for several years after the system was in operation, and while there was room enough to try the experiment—I need not cite particular examples, as they have often been published during the last 30 years. Let us contrast some of the objects and management, required to carry the real penitentiary system into execution, with what is now practised, as that system, and it will appear that what is now called by that name bears no resemblance to it.

#### *The System requires*

That the prisoners should sleep separate, work separate, that they should be classed according to crime, that the young offender should not be placed in company with the hardened criminal.

In cases of bad behaviour, the prisoners should be put into solitary cells, that is, cells of 6 by 9 feet, where they can see nothing but the walls and iron grates, with a view of the sky through the blinds, but not of the earth or its inhabitants, and in which they may hear no voice but that of their keeper, when he brings them their bread and water once or twice a day.

Punishment should be moderate, and proportioned to the crime, but certain and inexorable.

#### *The Practice is*

That 30 to 40 lodge together, in a room of about 20 feet square, they work together in large companies, and classification is impossible.

You may now see them placed 3 to 6 in one of those small *solitary* cells!

The frequency of pardons, as now practised, absolutely destroys the object and intent of the system; as a man who acts with tolerable forecast can almost certainly get released long before his time expires, which defeats the demands of justice, and takes away the dread of punishment.

The other parts of the system are as little attended to as those specified—not that the inspectors want the disposition to practise them, but that, *for want of room, it is impossible.*

Let a prison be built so that the prisoners may be confined in separate cells, to work, to sleep and to eat, and be kept under suitable management in other respects, and I will engage that few, if any, will go there a second time; that they will dread it, as they used to do, more than the gallows; and that rogues would fly from Pennsylvania to places where they would stand a chance of being hung, rather than stay there to be put to hard labour in a solitary cell.—C. [Nat. Gaz.

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A Descriptive Account of the several Processes which are usually pursued in the Manufacture of the Article known in Commerce by the name of Tin Plate.—By Samuel Parkes, F. L. S. &c.

*From the Memoirs of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester.*

As the processes in this manufacture are more numerous and complicated than is generally imagined, it may be advisable to preface the account with an enumeration of some of those properties of tin which will be most likely to explain the rationale of the principal operations.

Tin has a great affinity for several of the other metals; particularly for zinc, mercury, copper, antimony, lead and iron; and owing to these affinities, its employment in the arts is very considerable.

Tin with zinc forms a metal of close grain, very useful for many purposes, especially for the formation of *pewter*. The zinc is found to impart great hardness to the tin without lessening its ductility.

The combination of mercury and tin, in which the tin is dissolved by the mercury into a very soft amalgam, is largely employed, as is well known, in silvering the backs of mirrors, and for other purposes in the arts. An amalgam of tin, of greater consistence, was formerly in use in the museums of Paris, for closing the mouths of glass bottles containing sundry curious and valuable preparations.

Copper is also alloyed with tin for various purposes of manufacture. This metallic mixture is employed in making what are called bronze statues; for casting bells, and pieces of artillery, and also for the fabrication of medals and medallions. In some of these cases the tin is mixed with copper on account of its property of rendering the copper more fusible; and this was probably the reason why the ancient Romans used that metal in the greater part of their brass coinage. It is owing to the affinity of tin for copper, that vessels of capacity, made with the latter metal, for culinary and other purposes, are so covered with a coating of tin, to preserve them from the action of substances which would not fail to erode copper, if unprotected by some such covering. The affinity of tin for copper

is farther exemplified by the process of whitening *pins*, which is effected by boiling the pins with granulated tin, in a ley made with alum and tartar.

A useful alloy is likewise formed by the mixture of tin and antimony. This metallic compound is very white—extremely hard—and will bear a very fine polish. On these accounts it is employed in making specula for telescopes, and also for the manufacture of rolled plates to engrave music upon.

The next metal which I have mentioned as uniting readily with tin, is lead. This metal will combine with tin in any proportion, and in most proportions the lead acquires a greater degree of fusibility by its union with the tin. It is this alloy which forms plumbers' solder—but that compound is prepared with different proportions of tin according to the purpose for which it is intended. The article called tinfoil, used for lining tea caddies, for coating electrical jars, and for other purposes, is also made from a mixture of these two metals.

But what is more relevant to the subject of this paper, is the affinity which subsists between *tin* and *iron*. One of the strongest proofs of this affinity, is derived from the circumstance, that even *cast iron* may be tinned in the same manner as wrought iron. Of late years, cast-iron saucepans, and pots of a large size are permanently tinned on their inner surfaces, to prevent the liquors which are boiled in them from acquiring any stain by a partial dissolution of the iron. Many other articles, such as bridle bits, common stirrups, small nails, &c. are now made much cheaper than formerly, by first fabricating them in cast-iron, and then covering them with a thin coat of tin, by the immersion of them in a hot mass of that fluid metal.

That these effects are owing to chemical affinity, cannot be doubted, when it is considered, that in all these cases, the pores of the iron are in some degree actually penetrated by the tin.

In the manufacture of tin plate, which I am now about to describe, a similar effect is produced, and also by the same means. Plates of iron properly prepared, are immersed in a large mass of melted tin, which is kept hot by a fire constantly burning underneath it; the consequence of which is, that the tin in some measure penetrates the iron, and this attaches other tin to it, so that the whole surface of the iron acquires, by this means, a complete covering of that metal.

As no accurate account has ever yet been given of the various processes by which this is effected, the following outline may probably be acceptable to the members of your very respectable society.

English bar iron of the finest quality, called tin iron, and which is generally prepared with charcoal instead of mineral coak, and made with the greatest care, for this particular purpose, is first cut to the necessary length, and then rolled at the mill, by a process which is peculiar to this manufacture, into plates of the requisite thinness, and of such form as is suitable for the business. These plates are then cut by hand-shears to the sizes suitable to the different markets. And as the shearer shears the plates, he piles them in heaps, occasionally putting one plate the cross way, to keep each box separate.

Two hundred and twenty five plates are called a box, but they are not put into boxes of wood in this stage of the operation. The iron plates now go into the hands of the *scaler*, who takes them from the shear house, and bends each of them singly across the middle, into this form, (A,) preparatory to their being cleaned for tinning, and for the convenience of putting them into the scaling furnace, as will be more fully explained hereafter.

This furnace, or oven, is heated by *flame* thrown into it from a fire place of a peculiar construction, and it is this flame that scales the plates, which are put into the oven in rows, and arranged three in each row, until the oven is full. It will be obvious that if they lay flat on the floor of the oven, the flame could play only on one side of each plate, whereas, by being bent in the form already described, the flame can operate equally on both sides. It may here be remarked that the form of all tin plates, one sort excepted, is that of a parallelogram, and that if a piece of stiff paper, or pasteboard, 13½ inches long, and 10 inches wide, be bent in the centre at an angle of about sixty degrees, and then put to stand on the two ends, we shall have the form of a plate No. 1. properly bent for the scaling oven.

The operation of *cleansing*, as it is called, and which is preparatory to the process of scaling, is commenced by steeping the plates for the space of four or five minutes, in a mixture of muriatic acid and water, in the proportion of four pounds of acid to three gallons of water. This quantity of the diluted acid will generally be sufficient for eighteen hundred plates, or eight boxes of 225 plates each.

When the plates have been steeped for the time prescribed, they are taken out of the liquor, and placed upon the floor, three in a row, and then by means of an iron rod put under them, they are conveyed to a furnace heated red hot, where they remain until the heat takes off the scale, the removal of which was the object in submitting them to that high temperature.

When this is effected, the plates are taken to a floor, where they are suffered to cool—they are then straightened, and beaten smooth upon a cast iron block. The workman knows by the appearance of the plates during this operation, whether they have been well scaled—for if they have, that is, if the rust or oxyd which was attached to the iron, has been properly removed, they will appear mottled with blue and white, something like marbled paper. The operation we have been describing is called *scaling*.

As it is impossible that plates can go through this process without being in some measure warped, or otherwise disfigured, they are now rolled a *second* time, between a pair of cast iron rollers, properly hardened and finely polished. This operation makes both sides of the plates perfectly smooth, and imparts a sort of polish to their surfaces. These rollers are each about 17 inches long, and 12 or 13 inches in diameter—but I am inclined to think that if the diameter was greater,\* they would set the plates flatter, and do the work better in every respect.

\* Since the above was written, I have submitted the manuscript to a gentleman who is very largely engaged in the manufacture of tin

The technical name of this apparatus is *rolls*, not *rollers*. All the rolls which are employed in rolling plates, either hot or cold, in this manufactory, are *hard* rolls—and there is as much difference between a pair of *hard* cast iron rolls, and a pair of *soft* rolls, although they may both be run out of the same pot of metal, as there is between iron and steel. The workmen inform me that the difference is entirely occasioned by the manner of casting them—the soft rolls being cast in sand, whereas the hard rolls are formed by pouring the metal into a thick cast iron box—and that the metal, by coming in contact with the cold box\* is sufficiently chilled to render the whole face of the roll entirely hard. The difference in the temper of these two kinds of rolls is so great, that when they are put into the lathe to be turned perfectly true, the turnings from the one will be one-eighth of an inch in thickness, whilst the turnings which come from the other are not larger than very fine needles. The temper of cast iron thus varying according to the nature of the mould into which it is poured, is a circumstance that appears to me to be deserving of attention in the manufacture of a variety of other utensils employed in the arts.

These rollers are used without heat, but they are screwed down very close one upon the other, only leaving bare room for the plates to pass, that the utmost attainable degree of pressure may be given to them. This last operation is called *cold rolling*.

When the plates have undergone this process, they are put one by one into troughs filled with a liquid preparation called *the leys*.

This is merely water, in which bran has been steeped for nine or ten days, until it has acquired a sufficient acidity for the purpose. The design of putting the plates into the troughs *singly*, is, that there may be more certainty of the liquor getting between them, and both the sides of every plate being soaked alike in the leys. In this liquor they remain for ten or twelve hours standing on the edges, but they are turned, or inverted, once during that time. This operation is called *working* in the leys.

The next operation is that of steeping in a mixture of sulphuric acid and water, in proportions which vary according to the judgment of the workmen.

The trough in which this operation is conducted, is made with thick lead, and the interior is divided by partitions of lead. Each of these divisions is by the workmen called a *hole*, and each of them will contain about one box of plates. In the diluted sulphuric acid which is in the different compartments of this vessel, the plates are agitated for about an hour, or until they have become perfectly bright, and entirely free from the black spots which are always upon them when they are first immersed in it.

Some nicety, however, is required in this operation, for if they remain too long in the acid, they will become stained, or blistered by

plates, and he tells me that the cold rolls which are employed in his work, are 30 inches in diameter.

\* See Ranson's Patent Ploughshares, Repository, vol. xv. p. 209.

it, as the workmen term it; but practice enables a careful operator to judge of the time when they ought to be removed. This, however, is one of the most difficult parts of the business, as men like to work in it; though I understand that a good pickler is highly valued by his employers, and obtains great wages. It is necessary to notify that this, and the former process with the acidulated water, are both hastened by giving to those menstrua an increase of temperature—and this is effected by means of heated flues which run under each trough. Little additional heat is necessary in summer, however, as 90° or 100° of Fahrenheit is a temperature sufficiently high for either of these operations.

(To be concluded in our next.)

#### RURAL AFFAIRS.

From a late London paper it appears, that a new and easy method has lately been discovered in England, of preventing the destruction of the young turnip plants by the fly, and for which the discoverer was rewarded with 200 guineas. It is merely to sow about 2 lbs. of radish seed on every acre of turnip land, with the turnip seed; the fly preferring to feed on the radish plants will, in such a case, leave the turnip plants unmolested.

One of the most effectual methods to prevent the ascent of insects on fruit trees, in the spring, is to draw a streak of tar round the body of the tree; but the surface of this soon becomes incrustated by the warmth of the atmosphere, and then the insects are enabled to pass this barrier. To remedy this, mix a proportion of oil with the tar, which will prevent the hardening of the exterior for a considerable length of time; and when the effects of the oil are dissipated, let the exterior be again softened with oil. This plan is certainly one of the most efficacious for preventing insects from ascending the bodies of fruit trees.

It is a fact well ascertained, that when apple trees are in bloom, if the farina be gathered from the blossoms of a tree bearing sour fruit, and scattered on those of a tree bearing sweet, the apples produced from these blossoms will partake of the flavour of both trees. In this way the flavour of fruit may be changed for the better—a matter worthy of note, though perhaps not very profitable in practice.

[Albany Plough Boy.]

Green Bay, Feb. 18.

Sir—In compliance with your request, I will with pleasure give you as accurate

an account as is in my power of the fly which annually visits this place.

I have resided here the four last summers, and during that period, the first swarm in each year has regularly made its appearance about the tenth of July, and nearly disappear in about ten days, when it is followed by a second swarm, and this by a third, which remains till about the 20th of August. When these swarms first appear, their numbers are immense, covering the shady sides of all the buildings at the bay, so as to make their appearance quite black. Every limb and twig in the woods and fields are literally bent down with the immense quantities that settle upon them. The air is also filled with them, flying in every direction, so that on several occasions, at about sundown, we have been scarcely able to see across the parade of Fort Howard. To give you a more just idea of their numbers, I will cite one instance, in which, being struck with the immense number that lay under a large spreading elm, the boughs of which covered an extent of surface the diameter of which I supposed to be about twelve or fifteen yards, I took my rule, and to satisfy my curiosity measured their depth as they lay; and, to my great astonishment, found several heaps near the outside of the circle four inches deep, and increasing until I reached the stem, where I actually measured one heap nine inches! And notwithstanding these immense quantities that had fallen under the tree dead and dying, the tree itself remained covered and drooping with them. At the time I made this measurement, I observed the swine feeding on them very greedily, and some of the inhabitants told me that the cattle also would eat them. It is a fact, which astonishes me respecting these insects, that they appear most suddenly.

In the morning, after a warm night, I have repeatedly known it to be the case, that the buildings on the northwest sides are black with them, and the trees and bushes covered with them; though the evening before at the usual bedtime, scarcely any were to be seen. It is also remarkable, that they are continually casting their coats, or skin; how often this takes place, I have never had sufficient curiosity to ascertain from my own observation, but, from what I have seen, and from what information I could obtain from the inhabitants, I have no doubt but it takes place every twenty-four hours. It is a fact, of which I am convinced from my own ob-

ervation, as well as from information of others, that they drive all the mosquitoes from their immediate neighbourhood. The cause I cannot divine: I have never seen the two kinds of insects in contact, but, such is the fact, when these flies are present, the mosquitoes retire to the swamps and thickets. Within three or four days after these flies make their appearance, the dead accumulate in such quantities as to infect the atmosphere in their immediate vicinity, and become quite offensive. The evil, however, is speedily corrected by a hot sun, which dries up such as are not eaten by the various animals that feed on them. The body of this insect is in form between that of the bee and wasp, but differs widely from both as to its wings, legs and feelers. Its body is one and a quarter inches long, and three-eighths of an inch in circumference; the wings long and narrow; the legs long, and the points or feet barbed; the feelers are about one and a half inches long, at the root about the size of a horse hair, and gradually diminishing to a point; they are four in number, two projecting from the head, and two from the tail, at an angle with each other of about 20 degrees; those at the tail, however, are much the longest.

This insect is never seen in any considerable numbers, if at all, above the Little Rapids of Fox river (about five miles above Fort Howard), and is so sudden in its appearance, that I regret to say, that I am unable to add any thing in relation to its origin and production, or to venture a conjecture as to its residence before it shows itself in this vicinity. I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

LEW. MORGAN.

Our readers have heard many loud complaints against the British nation for underselling our manufacturers. We now lay before them a sketch of a debate in the parliament of Upper Canada, upon a proposal for restricting the trade with the United States, in order to enable the Canadian farmers to obtain *fair prices* for their produce. It seems too, from what is said of *shoes*, that some of our *manufactures* can be sent abroad.

*House of Assembly, 4th March.*

Mr. Durand said that he had travelled through a part of the country lately, and distress was felt in every quarter. The people had reaped a fruitful harvest, but they could derive no benefit from it, in consequence of the House having neglected to provide against the importation of produce from the United States, with which the province was glutted. He hoped that no gentleman would oppose the laying on

of heavy duties upon goods coming from the United States. There was a great surplus in the country, and he was happy that the House had taken up this subject without a petition before it. He held one in his hand, which, owing to the shortness of the session, he was prevented by the rules of the House from presenting to them in time. (Mr. D. read the petition.) It inveighed strongly against the government contractors purchasing from the Americans 3000 barrels of flour. Mr. Durand said the language of the petition was strong, but it was the general feeling of the country. He was opposed to the introduction of cattle from the United States, as well as flour. A farmer could not get more than fifteen dollars for a cow which was worth twenty, and the farmers who raised fat cattle in his district, and sent them in droves of twenty or thirty to market, met the Americans who undersold them—and unless something was done they could not pay their debts, and their lands must be sacrificed by executions.

Mr. Nichol said that the present bill must be ruinous to the unfortunate emigrants, who had made a long, fatiguing and expensive journey to settle amongst them—he knew in his part of the country an emigrant to be charged thirty-five dollars for an old cow not worth half the money—the demands of the emigrants could not be supplied—it was necessary that sheep should be admitted to enable the inhabitants to procure wool, an article in great demand, and of high price from its scarcity—it had been often sold for three quarters of a dollar per pound.

Mr. Durand said that the honourable gentleman advanced arguments to do away with the whole of the bill; the gentleman (Mr. N.) looked to the interests of the emigrants instead of the people of the country, who wanted a market, and could find none, because the Americans brought in cattle from the United States and undersold them.

Mr. Nichol said he had no intention of injuring the country for the benefit of the emigrants, the farmers in his part of the country could not furnish a sufficient supply, and if Americans were more enterprising than their own farmers, he could not pity them. He defied the honourable gentleman to prove that any farmer in his district had 20 or 30 head of fat cattle. It was his wish to place the emigrants out of the mercy of his (Mr. D.'s) rapacious constituents, and not to injure the country. He (Mr. N.) was sure that the people of Kingston must starve but for the Americans, and if they had had to depend on the bay of Quinté last fall they must have been destitute of provisions.

Mr. Robinson said he would oppose the tax upon pork—he was in want of some and could not find a single barrel in York. It was the only article that the emigrants could take into the woods, and it was necessary that their interests should be attended to—the article of flour was in abundance, and it was necessary that a duty, amounting to a prohibition, should be laid upon it.

Mr. Durand stated that if there was a scarcity of pork in York, it was in consequence of the farmers finding no market for it. When they took it to that place they were obliged to sell it

for eight or ten dollars per barrel or take it home with them. He (Mr. D.) would have every thing taxed. The Americans were ruining the country, they would have our money, and our farmers must go without it—they lately sent in a large quantity of shoes, which they sold for one dollar per pair. This was as ruinous to the mechanics as the importation of other articles was to the farmers. The fact was that the lawyers had their hands full of business, the sheriffs had theirs full of sales, the merchants must make up the money which they owed, and the farmers, who were the main stay of the country, had nothing to pay, and their property was sacrificed. Let the bill go for twelve months.

Mr. Speaker said that he was not satisfied how far it would be provident to deprive the people of fat cattle where he resided. He knew that their dependence was upon the supplies which they received from the United States. If the committee were of opinion that there was not a sufficient supply in the country to meet the demands, they ought not to pass the bill. It was his opinion, and the opinion of every gentleman, that the flour raised in the country was sufficient for the inhabitants, and it was their bounden duty to lay a heavy duty upon it, or prohibit its importation altogether, and he would go so far as to limit the coming in of fat cattle after the first of June.

Mr. Burwell stated that it was his desire to promote the interests of the country, but in doing so he could not think of sacrificing the interests of the emigrants, nor did the country require it. In his part of the country there were many who must suffer by the bill, who are now paying such a price for every article they purchase as satisfies the farmer. He could not believe that the prices represented were the general prices of the country: he knew they were not the prices in his quarter, and he thought it impolitic and unjust to prevent milch cows and young cattle from coming into the country, which were necessary for the strangers, who united with the other inhabitants in advancing the interests of the province.

Mr. Howard stated that he was obliged to refuse pork in payment of debts, as there was no market for it in Brockville: it would not bring more than 5*d.* per pound. There was a large quantity of pork in the country and no demand for it—they were inundated with it by the Americans—it was impossible that a duty on pork could prove ruinous to the emigrants—there were in his neighbourhood several Irish emigrants that would not buy it, and in Perth not 100 out of 15 or 1600 persons ever inquired for it. The country was already suffering, and unless the Americans were restricted, the country must suffer more. He had pork for sale, and had obtained twenty dollars for a barrel of it, but since the Americans sent it into the country he could not obtain fifteen dollars per barrel, and a storekeeper told him that he would not give more than 3*d.* per pound for fresh pork.

Mr. Casey said that he would offer himself on this occasion to the notice of the House, and not being in the habit of trespassing on their time he trusted he would be indulged with a patient hearing. He was a farmer himself, but

should divest himself of all personal interest on this occasion, and look solely to the interest of his country. He was sure, when he could state to the House that there were cattle enough in the country, not only to support the small population of Kingston, (so much dwelt upon by the honourable speaker) but the whole province, that no gentleman could allow the introduction of them from the United States. He knew good beef to be sent to the town of Kingston that did not bring three dollars per cwt.

The committee were engaged in regulating the duties, when the House adjourned till Monday at 8 o'clock.

#### MISSION TO ASHANTEE.

A book was published in England in the course of the past year, by a Mr. Bowdich, containing an account of a mission from the British establishment at Cape Coast, on the coast of Africa, to the kingdom of Ashantee, situated about 150 miles inland. This, it seems, was the first time that this nation of Africans had ever been visited by civilized men, and the account of their customs, manners, and government, from the specimens of the work that we have seen, must be very amusing and instructive.

The Ashantees are a powerful and warlike people, governed by a despotic sovereign; and they exhibit some striking evidence of wealth and luxury, mingled with the utmost barbarism. The mission went to Coomassie, which is the capital of the kingdom. This place was supposed by the inhabitants to contain 100,000 persons, but the gentlemen who composed the mission concluded that in making this estimate they had reference to seasons when they assembled on some great occasion rather than permanent residents, which they imagine were about 15,000. Upon entering it they were met by 5000 people, most of them warriors, attended by a great variety of martial music, and dressed in a very extraordinary manner. The officers wore a war cap ornamented with gilded rams' horns in front, and immense plumes of eagles' feathers on the sides—their vest was of red cloth, covered with felishes and saphies in gold and silver—they had small brass bells, the horns and tails of animals, and long leopards' tails hung down their backs—they had loose cotton trousers, (much such we presume as our dandies wear) with very large boots of red leather, coming half up the thigh, and fastened by small chains to their waist belt—they were ornamented with bells, horses' tails, strings or amulets, and shreds of leather, a quiver of poisoned arrows hung from their right

wrist, and they held a long iron chain between their teeth, and a spear was in their left hand. Such a figure, with their black faces, made a truly formidable appearance.

These people practise the most extensive, inhuman and shocking human sacrifices. This takes place, more particularly, at the death of great personages. The king, at his mother's death sacrificed three thousand victims. The manner is as shockingly cruel, as the custom is diabolical.

Among this nation, the arts have made considerable progress. They use a loom formed on the same principles with the British; and "the fineness, variety, brilliancy and size of their cloths is astonishing." They paint white cloths not inelegantly, as fast as an European can write. They excel in pottery, and are good goldsmiths. The kings' scales, blowpan, boxes, weights, and pipe tongs, were neatly made of the purest gold. He appeared to be about 38 years of age—his manners were majestic, but courteous, and his dress was magnificent. He wore a fillet of aggrary beads about his temples, had a necklace of gold cock-spur shells, and over his right shoulder a red silk cord, suspending three sapphires cased in gold—his bracelets were of the richest mixture of beads and gold; his cloth was of dark green silk; his knee bands of aggrary beads, his ankle strings of gold ornaments of the most delicate workmanship, and his sandals of a soft white leather, embossed across the instep band with small gold and silver cases of sapphire. He was seated on a low chair richly ornamented with gold—the belts of his guards were cased in gold, and covered with small jaw bones of the same metal. His eunuch wore only one massy piece of gold about his neck. The royal stool, entirely cased in gold, was displayed under a splendid umbrella—the breasts of the attendants were adorned with large stars, crescents, and gossamer wings, of solid gold. The royal relatives wore gold chains about their necks. The king's table was furnished with massy plate, silver forks, knives, and spoons, in abundance, and in the centre, a large silver waiter supported a roasted pig—and the various cookery was of an excellent character.

Mr. Bowdich supposes the number of men in the kingdom capable of bearing arms, to be rising of 200,000—the disposable force to be 150,000—the whole population to be a million. They have a daily market supplied with beef, mutton, wild hog, deer, monkey's flesh, fowls, yams, plantains,

corn, sugar, cane, rice, peppers, vegetable butter, oranges, papans, pine apples, bananas, salt and dried fish, large snails smoke dried, palm wine, rum, pipes, beads, looking glasses, sandals, silk, cotton cloth, powder, white and blue thread, and flalabashes. The cattle are as large as English cattle—the soil produces two crops in a year—all the fruits mentioned as being in the market grow spontaneously and in great abundance—the oranges are very large and of exquisite flavour; a berry which give to acids the flavour of sweets, making limes taste like honey, is common—the castor oil plant rises to a large tree, and the cotton tree sometimes to 150 feet.

The government is despotic, frequently severe and oppressive, and, in enforcing the customs which have been mentioned, cruel and sanguinary. They have a sort of legislative body, consisting of *the king*, four aristocratical *assessors*, and an *assembly* of captains; making their *three estates*.

With respect to religion, they believe that white people are under the care of a higher sort of god, and that the blacks are left to the care of inferior deities—though they expect that black kings and black nobility, will go to the upper gods after death, and enjoy forever the luxury which was their portion on earth. Hence, cooks, butlers, &c. are sacrificed on their tombs. They have two sorts of priests, one to hold intercourse with their idols, the other to conjure, tell fortunes, &c.

Gold and silver are in great abundance among them, and are wrought, with considerable skill, into vessels and utensils.

Such is a slight account of this nation of negroes—a race that have apparently, by the force of their powers, made considerable advances towards civilization, and a regularly organized state of society; and who, it would seem, if the proper pains were taken, and the necessary means and opportunity were afforded, might become a well informed, well regulated, humane, and christianized people. But, it appears that the great obstacle to the introduction of the real blessings of civilized life among them is that terrible curse, corrupter, and desolater of nations—the *slave trade*. So long as Spain continues the traffic, nothing can be hoped towards this object from the efforts of those nations that prohibit it. Whilst this mission was there, one thousand slaves left the Ashantee country for two Spanish schooners that were upon the coast. If this traffic were once effectually broken up—and that will never be until the prosecution of it shall be declared to

be, and punished as, piracy—there is little hope that these heathen barbarians, will become just and humane. But, it is perfectly apparent, from the example of this people, that there is no material defect of bodily or mental powers and capacities, in the inhabitants of Africa.

[*N. Y. Daily Adv.*]

#### ON DIVORCES.

Having rejected polygamy, and matched one man with one woman, let us now consider what duration we shall assign to their union, and whether we shall admit of those voluntary divorces, which were customary among the Greeks and Romans. Those who would defend this practice may employ the following reasons.

How often does disgust and aversion arise after marriage, from the most trivial accidents, or from an incompatibility of humour; where time, instead of curing the wounds, proceeding from mutual injuries, festers them every day the more, by new quarrels and reproaches? Let us separate hearts, which were not made to associate together. Each of them may, perhaps, find another for which it is better fitted. At least, nothing can be more cruel than to preserve, by violence, an union, which, at first, was made by mutual love, and is now, in effect, dissolved by mutual hatred.

But the liberty of divorces is not only a cure to hatred and domestic quarrels: It is also an admirable preservative against them, and the only secret for keeping alive that love, which first united the marriage couple. The heart of man delights in liberty: the very image of constraint is grievous to it: When you would confine it by violence, to what would otherwise have been its choice, the inclination immediately changes, and desire is turned into aversion. If the public interest will not allow us to enjoy in polygamy that *variety*, which is so agreeable in love: at least, deprive us not of that liberty, which is so essentially requisite. In vain you tell me, that I had my choice of the person, with whom I would conjoin myself. I had my choice, it is true, of my prison; but this is but a small comfort, since it must still be a prison.

Such are the arguments which may be urged in favour of divorces: But there seem to be these three unanswerable objections against them. *First*, What must become of the children, upon the separation of the parents? Must they be committed to the

care of a stepmother; and instead of the fond attention and concern of a parent, feel all the indifference or hatred of a stranger or an enemy? These inconveniences are sufficiently felt, where nature has made the divorce by the doom inevitable to all mortals: And shall we seek to multiply those inconveniences, by multiplying divorces, and putting it in the power of parents, upon every caprice, to render their posterity miserable.

*Secondly*, If it be true, on the one hand, that the heart of man naturally delights in liberty, and hates every thing to which it is confined; it is also true on the other, that the heart of man naturally submits to necessity, and soon loses an inclination, when there appears an absolute impossibility of gratifying it. These principles of human nature, you'll say, are contradictory: but what is man but a heap of contradictions! Though it is remarkable, that, where principles are, after this manner, contrary in their operation, they do not always destroy each other; but the one or the other may predominate on any particular occasion, according as circumstances are more or less favourable to it. For instance, love is a restless and impatient passion, full of caprices and variations: arising in a moment from a feature, from an air, from nothing, and suddenly extinguishing after the same manner. Such a passion requires liberty above all things; and therefore Eloisa had reason, when, in order to preserve this passion, she refused to marry her beloved Abelard.

How oft, when prest to marriage, have I said,  
Curse on all laws but those which love has made:  
Love, free as air, at sight of human ties,  
Spreads his light wings, and in a moment flies.

But *friendship* is a calm and sedate affection, conducted by reason and cemented by habit; springing from long acquaintance and mutual obligations; without jealousies or fears, and without those feverish fits of heat and cold, which cause such an agreeable torment in the amorous passion. So sober an affection, therefore, as friendship, rather thrives under constraint, and never rises to such a height, as when any strong interest or necessity binds two persons together, and gives them some common object of pursuit. We need not, therefore, be afraid of drawing the marriage knot, which chiefly subsists by friendship, the closest possible. The amity between the persons, where it is solid and sincere, will rather gain by it: And where it is wavering and uncertain, this is the best expedi-

ent for fixing it. How many frivolous quarrels and disgusts are there, which people of common prudence endeavour to forget, when they lie under the necessity of passing their lives together; but which would soon be inflamed into the most deadly hatred, were they pursued to the utmost, under the prospect of an easy separation?

In the *third* place, we must consider, that nothing is more dangerous than to unite two persons so closely in all their interests and concerns, as man and wife, without rendering the union entire and total. The least possibility of a separate interest must be the source of endless quarrels and suspicions. The wife, not secure of her establishment, will still be driving some separate end or project; and the husband's selfishness, being accompanied with more power, may be still more dangerous. [Hume's Essays.]

*A new Method of casting Characters for Printing.—By M. Poterat.*

[From Bulletin de la Societe d'Encouragement.]

M. Poterat's characters are in relief on one end, and hollow in the other. The latter are struck on copper, and the copper is afterwards soldered, in a very simple manner, to the type-metal which bears the characters or letters in relief. When the subject is composed in the common way with these characters, by which the difficulty and expense of composing in hollow letters are avoided, the plate or form is turned upside-down for casting. Only two lines are cast at a time, to facilitate corrections; for in this case a defective letter, in either line, may be removed by means of a file. To do so in a whole page would be difficult, and would require expensive tools made on purpose. A wooden machine is used for casting in this manner, the price of which is about thirty shillings, whilst the known machine for casting is very expensive. The tool for stamping the copper costs about eight shillings only. In this double form of the type, the rapid deterioration of the moveable characters is avoided, and also the impossibility, in many cases, of keeping the stereotype forms.

An extensive bed of gypsum or plaster of Paris has been discovered on the west branch of the Susquehanna, near Pennsborough. We have been favoured with an advertisement, stating the results of different trials of its quality compared with

the lake plaster, and from the characters of the gentlemen who have tried it we are induced to believe their statement; that it answers quite as well on corn, clover, or small grain, as the gypsum of Genessee. The plaster is offered for sale at the quarry for five dollars per ton. To the interior of Pennsylvania, particularly to the people residing on the Susquehanna and its branches, this discovery is of more value than mines of silver or gold.

[Lancaster Gaz.]

*Acorns a Substitute for Coffee.*—Mr. Meax, a German physician of some eminence, ascribes great medical virtues to an infusion of acorns used in the same manner as coffee. In 1793 he published some experiments on this subject, and gave the following directions for preparing and using the acorns:

Take sound and ripe acorns, peel off the shell or husk, divide the kernels, dry them gradually, and then roast them in a close vessel or roaster, keeping them constantly stirring; in doing which especial care must be taken that they be not burnt or over-roasted, either of which would be hurtful. The doctor recommends half an ounce of these roasted acorns, ground and prepared like coffee, to be taken morning and evening, either alone or mixed with coffee and sweetened with sugar, either with or without milk.

The author says that acorns have always been esteemed a wholesome nutriment for men, and that by their medical qualities they have been found to cure slimy obstructions in the *viscera*, and nervous complaints. [Nat. Gazette.]

*Cicero's Lost Books de Republica.*—Mr. Mai, who has made so many important discoveries in the Ambrosian Library, has been appointed by the Pope librarian of the Vatican, where he has found a most splendid MS. on vellum, in magnificent capitals, of the best age, and quite legible, though covered with later writing, containing the *lost books of Cicero de Republica*, on 300 folio leaves, in double columns. The name of Cicero is at the head of the MS. and the titles of the chapters on the margin. Mr. Mai is preparing for the immediate publication of this most important MS. from which politics, ethics, history, jurisprudence, philosophy, archæology, and philology, may expect to derive numerous advantages. [Nat. Gazette.]

## ON SEED POTATOES.

From the Plough Boy.

It may always be observed of every potato that in the end opposite to that in which it is connected by its stem with the fibrous roots of the plant, the eyes are double in number of those of the other end; and it may also be observed that the shoots growing from the end having the greatest number of eyes always start the soonest and grow most rapidly: this circumstance it would seem has led to the belief that this end of the potato only ought to be used for seed, as being properly the *seed end* of the root, and accordingly I perceive a statement in a late paper, published in New Jersey, that by recent experiments, it has been found, that to cut off about a third of this end of the potato for planting, will afford as great a product as to plant the whole root. If this be correct, two-thirds of the weight of potatoes commonly used for seed may be saved; a matter of no small consequence, as potatoes are much more expensive in the article of seed than any other crop commonly cultivated.

To ascertain the truth of this matter, let the cultivator take, say 40 potatoes, as nearly of any given size as may be, and plant them in a row, putting one potato (uncut) to each hill; take forty more of as nearly the same size as can be selected, cut off the seed end of each, so as to include about a third of the root, and plant one of these to each hill in a row along side the other; give each row the same cultivation; dig them separately, and then weigh or measure the products of each, and the result will be considered as pretty conclusive.

There are other experiments, easily made, and well worthy of attention, in the culture of the potato, and among others I would recommend the following:

1. To ascertain whether it is most profitable to use the largest, or the smallest potatoes for seed.
2. What increase of the crop may be obtained by nipping off the blossoms as soon as they appear on the stalks.
3. To ascertain the proper quantity of gypsum that is best adapted for increasing the crop, as too much of this manure produces a luxuriant growth of stalks, but not a correspondent growth in the roots.
4. To ascertain the difference in product that may be expected in cultivating the different varieties of the plant, and which, on the whole, quantity and quality considered, are the most profitable for culture.

From an experiment I once made, though not with perfect accuracy, I am induced to believe that if a potato, weighing more than an ounce, be planted in a hill, and another weighing eight ounces be planted whole, adjoining it, no essential difference will be found in their products.

A case was lately reported by the Berkshire Agricultural Society, from which it would seem that an increase of about a sixth of the whole amount of a crop of potatoes may be obtained by nipping off the blossoms as soon as they appear on the stalks. Of the truth of this every cultivator may easily satisfy himself.

In regard to the use of gypsum, it will probably be found, that merely to immerse the seed potatoes in brine, and then roll them in gypsum, before planting, is the most advantageous method of applying this manure to the crop. The brine is also serviceable in this case, as salt is a valuable manure for potatoes. A little gypsum may afterwards be sprinkled over the hills to advantage, while a greater quantity might prove injurious by causing a redundant growth of stalks.

By attention to these particulars it is believed that very essential benefits may be derived in the culture of potatoes. J.N.

The following advertisement by one of the mail robbers, is taken from a Baltimore paper.

LEWIS HARE,  
*Tailor,*

Offers his services in his trade of making clothes: he solicits the humanity of those of his profession, as well as others, for employment; working at his trade will enable him to pass away the time that he is doomed to remain here, more tolerably than he possibly could without having something to occupy him in his long and solitary confinement, and which will keep his mind from resting upon his misfortune, and enable him in some measure, to be useful to his fellow men. The most satisfactory references can be given as to his integrity and his wish to be useful. His diligence must be shown after he has something to occupy it upon.

*Baltimore Jail, April 14, 1820.*

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Patent Machine Paper of J. & T. Gilpin, Brandywine.

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*Clark & Raser, Printers.*